



## Economic Growth Sector PROJECT PROFILE

April 2012



Neighborhood Enhancement Teams identify priority programs for their own communities.

### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

**Implemented by:** AECOM  
International Development

**Duration:** 2007 – 2012

**Total Funding:** \$23 million

**Beneficiaries:** Citizens of Aqaba

**Geographic Coverage:** Aqaba  
Governorate

<http://www.aced-jordan.com/>

## Aqaba Community & Economic Development

### BACKGROUND

Situated on the coast of the Red Sea, Aqaba lies at the crossroads of trade between Africa, Asia and Europe. The city is strategically important as Jordan's only seaport and as a special economic zone. Destined to be a major trading center in the region, Aqaba continues to adopt reform to ensure that its citizens and businesses participate in and benefit from the development of this zone.

USAID supports the Jordanian Government specifically the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) in this objective. The Aqaba Community and Economic Development (ACED) Program is based in Aqaba and works in three areas:

1. Strengthening government institutions: building capacity of the local government through training and systems improvement
2. Strengthening the private sector: supporting efforts to attract investment, provide employment opportunities, develop business associations and improve small businesses
3. Enhancing community development: working with ASEZA to empower community-based organizations (CBOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and support communities' implementation of their neighborhood development plans.

Training, grants and commodities support these program areas.

### ACTIVITIES

- Introducing new IT systems at the local government level to improve public service delivery, reduce investment impediments and enable a modern paperless working environment
- Organizing the private sector through direct support to business associations to better serve their respective members and publics
- Conveying the needs of different neighborhoods to the local government through formation of Neighborhood Enhancement Teams and the implementation of neighborhood development plans as well as supporting infrastructure projects, neighborhood safety and sanitation programs and water use awareness programs



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



*Kindergartens and playgrounds built in partnership with ASEZA provide safe areas where children can play and develop important skills.*



*With help from the private sector, career awareness fairs have been organized for the tourism and construction sectors in Aqaba.*

## CONTACT:

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- Introducing innovative grant programs to NGOs and CBOs to address poverty and improve community services throughout Aqaba Governorate; activities include building kindergartens and community centers in remote villages, developing special programs for youth and the disabled, and employment generation projects with women's associations

## PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Trained government officials on a variety of subjects, such as HR, finance, document management and tourism development
- Upgraded and implemented IT systems within the local government to improve service delivery
- Established nine Neighborhood Enhancement Teams to convey the needs of Aqaba's neighborhoods to the local government
- Identified and implemented more than 20 neighborhood improvement projects in partnership with ASEZA and the communities
- Launched an NGO Coordination Committee and CBO Development Program to help local organizations better serve constituents
- Awarded numerous grants to local organizations directed at poverty alleviation and employment generation
- Developed the Aqaba Micro-Business Incubator to provide training for small start-ups

## PARTNERS

- AECOM International Development
- Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority
- Aqaba Development Corporation
- Local Community Development Directorate
- Business associations, CBOs and NGOs